Agriculture, Fires and Forests: Watching (Monitoring) some of the World's Resources

Chris Justice - University of Maryland with contributions from various colleggues - who actually do the work!

Take Home Message

Consistent long-term data records (CDR's) are as important for several applications of societal benefit as they are for global change research





GEO the Group on Earth Observations

an Intergovernmental Organization with 90 Members and 67 Participating Organizations



GEO is focused on societal benefit

Agriculture is one of the GEO societal benefit areas









Example Participants in the GEO Agriculture Community of Practice























helping to build a world without hunger

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS







vito















Rice Information System







CSIRO





















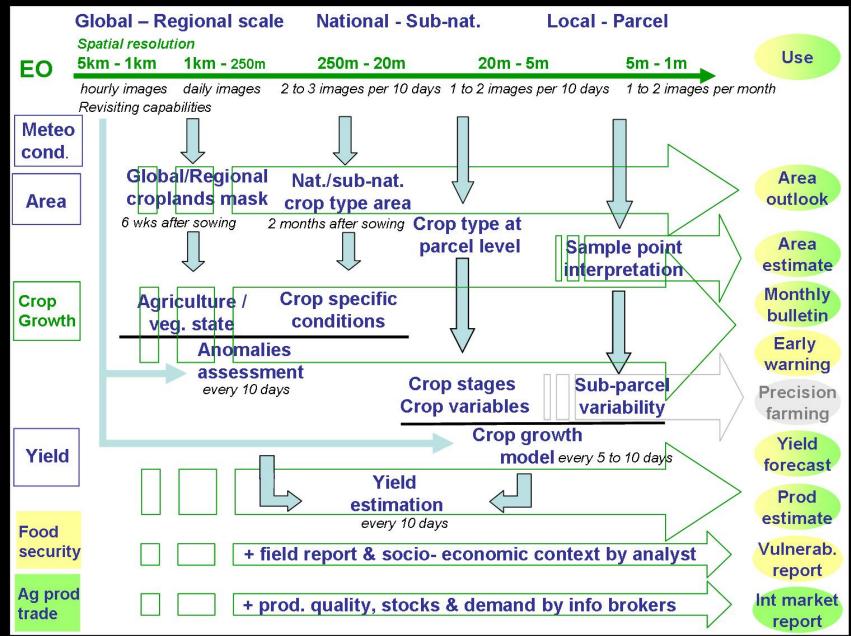








From Earth Observations to Information





Identifying Information and Product Types

Information Products

- Crop outlook / Early warning
- Area estimate
- Yield forecast
- Production estimate
- Food Sec/vulnerability report
- Statistics reports

EO Data Products

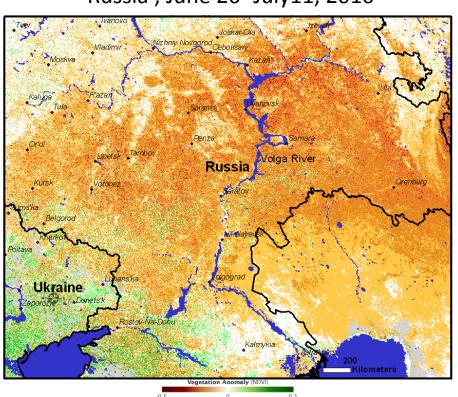
- Cropland mask /Pasturelands
- Ag practices
- Crop condition indicators
- Crop type
- Biophysical variables
- Environmental variables (soil moisture)
- In-situ Weather

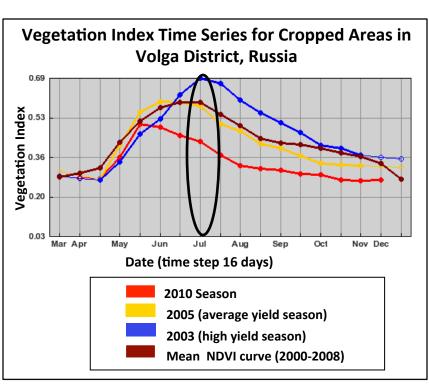
USDA Monitoring Drought Impact on Crops in Russia, 2010



Vegetation Anomaly Image, Volga District, Russia; June 26- July11, 2010



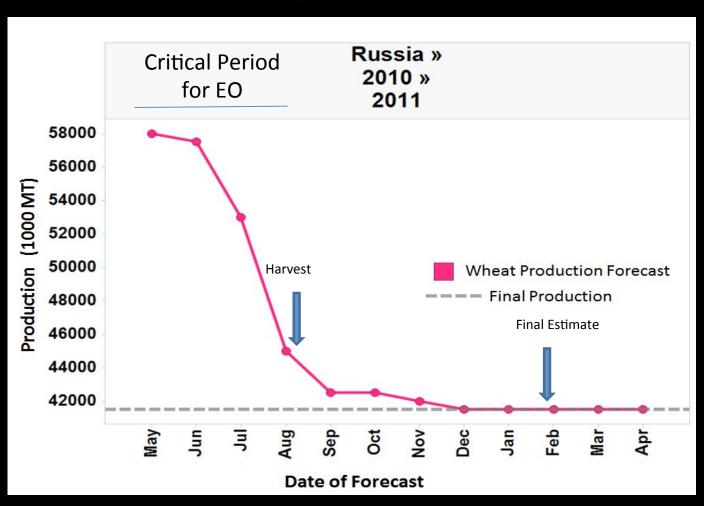




 Low rainfall and hot temperatures were largely responsible for a reduction of 37% percent of the country's grain crops. Global price increased 80% in 6 months

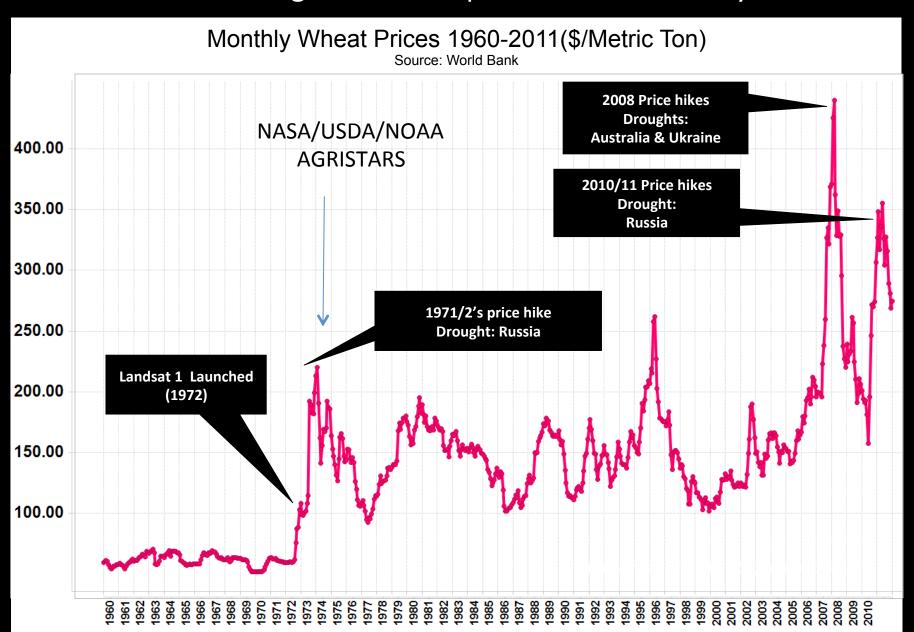
Need timely, trusted, reliable, and accessible forecasts which can help to inform and anticipate trade policies and increase market confidence

GEOGLAM Goal of Timely Information on Crop Production using repeatable scientific methods to augment current operational procedures





Shortfalls due to droughts in main crop producing countries were large factors leading to the food price hikes in recent years







Background: the G20 Agriculture priority (2011)

G20 Final Declaration – Cannes, November 2011

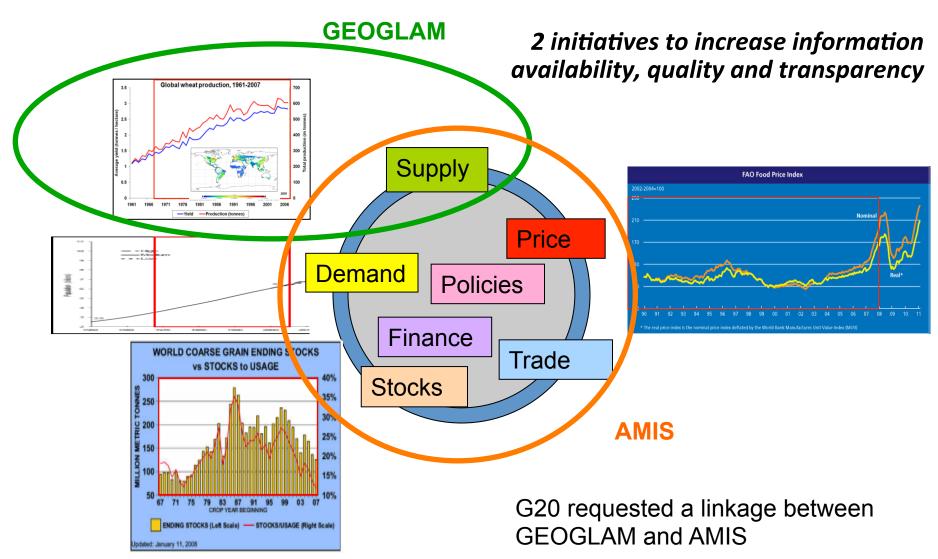
44. We commit to <u>improve market information and transparency</u> in order to make international markets for agricultural commodities more effective. To that end, we launched:

The "Agricultural Market Information System" (AMIS) in Rome on September 15, 2011, to improve information on markets ...;

The "Global Agricultural Geo-monitoring Initiative" (GEOGLAM) in Geneva on September 22-23, 2011. This initiative will coordinate satellite monitoring observation systems in different regions of the world in order to enhance crop production projections and weather forecasting data.



GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS Background: the G20 Agriculture priority (2011)







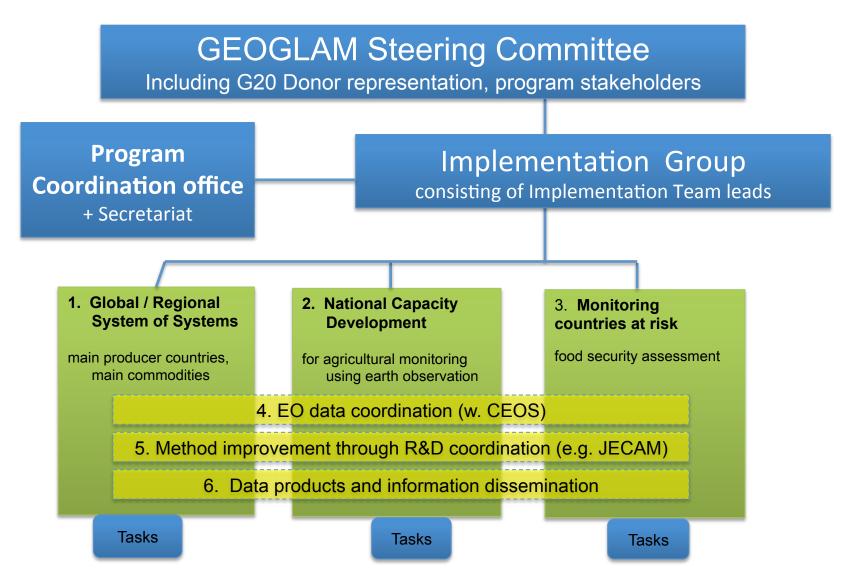
GEOGLAM: GOAL AND SCOPE

- To strengthen the international community's capacity to produce and disseminate relevant information on agricultural production at national, regional and global scales, through reinforced use of Earth Observations.
- GEOGLAM is a 'coordination program', aiming at:
 - supporting, strengthening and articulating existing efforts through the use of EO
 - developing capacities and awareness at national and global level
 - improving availability and open access to data and disseminating information

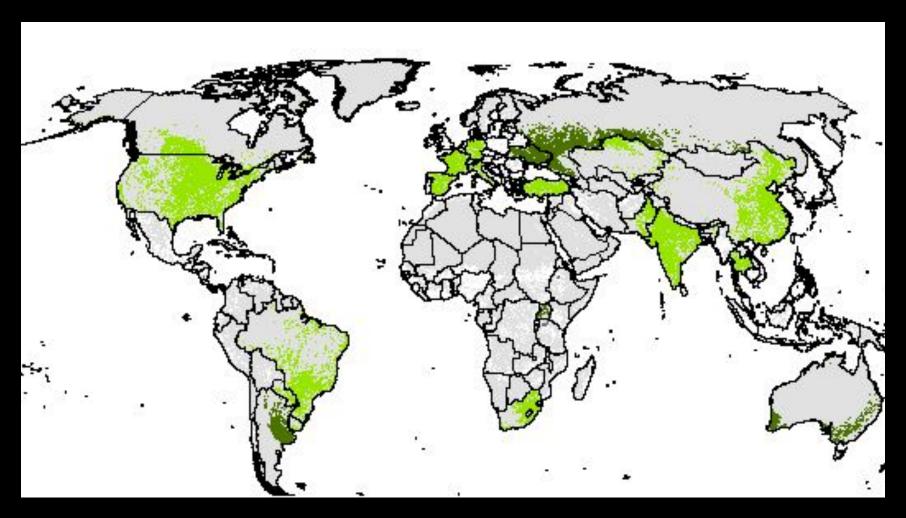




GEOGLAM Governance Model

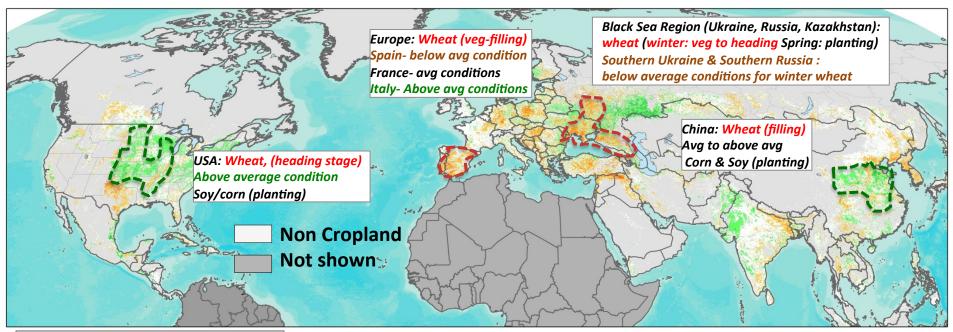


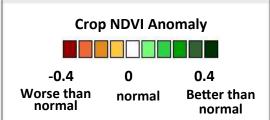
Countries responsible for 96% of total world exports of corn, soy, wheat and rice combined



The focus for AMIS

Northern Hemisphere Satellite Derived Crop NDVI Anomaly relative to Average (2000-2011) May 1st, 2012





- Crop stage sensitive to moisture and temperature
- Crop stages largely based on USDA/NOAA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (JAWF

Orange and brown indicate crop with below average conditions

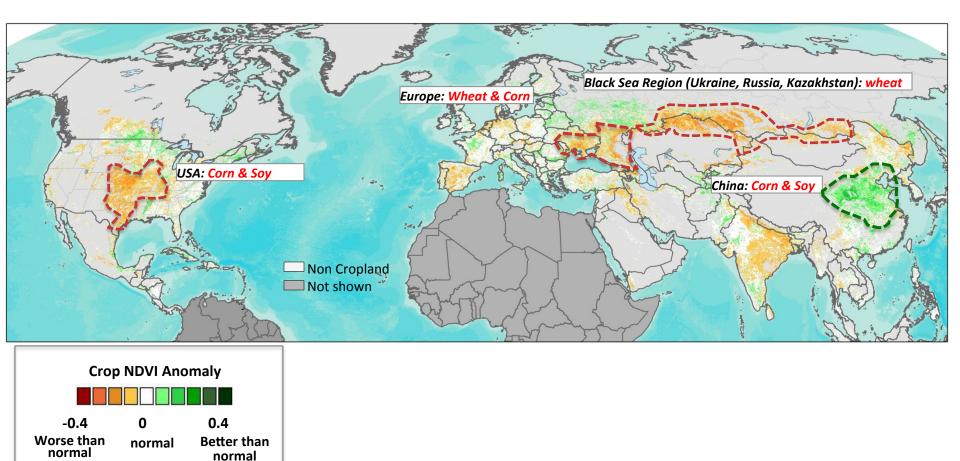
Green indicates crop with above average condition

Crops in development stages sensitive to drought conditions are highlighted in red next to each each region.

- Only Croplands are shown



Crop NDVI Anomaly relative to Average (2000-2011) June 1st, 2012

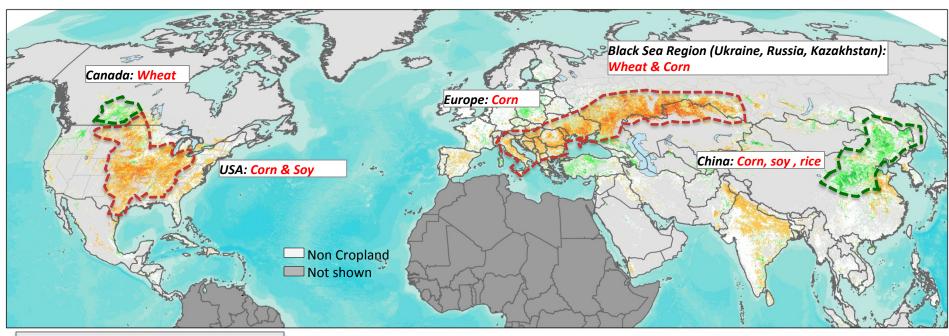


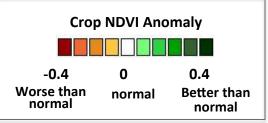
- Crop stage sensitive to moisture and temperature
- Crop stages largely based on USDA/NOAA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (JAWF





Crop NDVI Anomaly relative to Average (2000-2011) July 15th, 2012



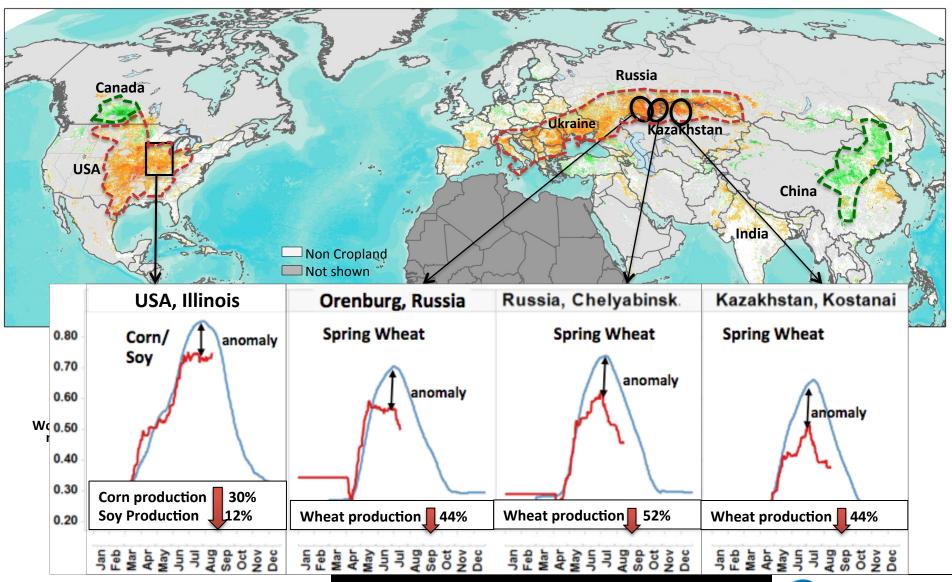


- US NDVI anoms persist
- Ukraine NDVI anoms continues and spread north
- Russia, Kazakhstan NDVI anoms intensifying
- Positive NDVI anoms in China & Canadian praries
- Crop stage sensitive to moisture and temperature
- Crop stages largely based on USDA/NOAA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (JAWF



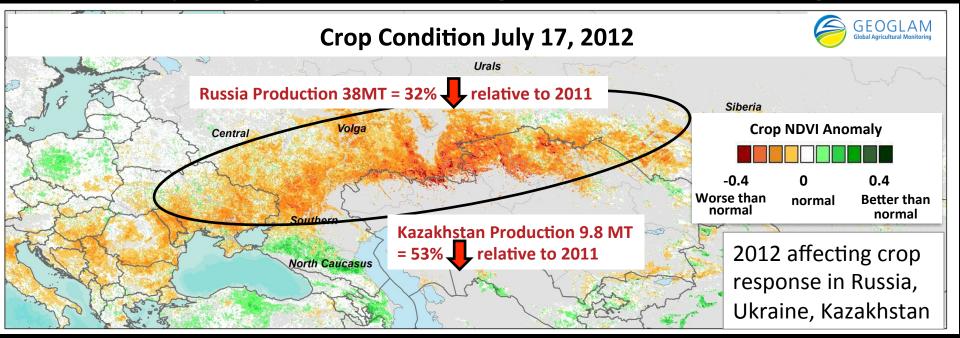


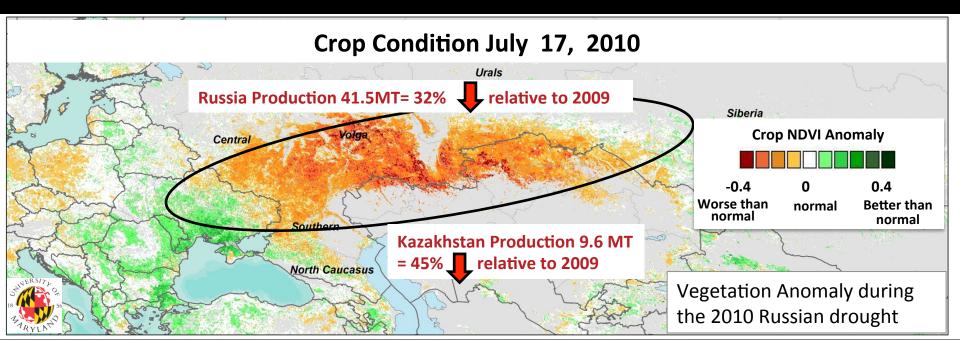
Crop NDVI Anomaly relative to Average (2000-2011) August 15th, 2012





Comparing the 2012 Drought to the 2010 Drought



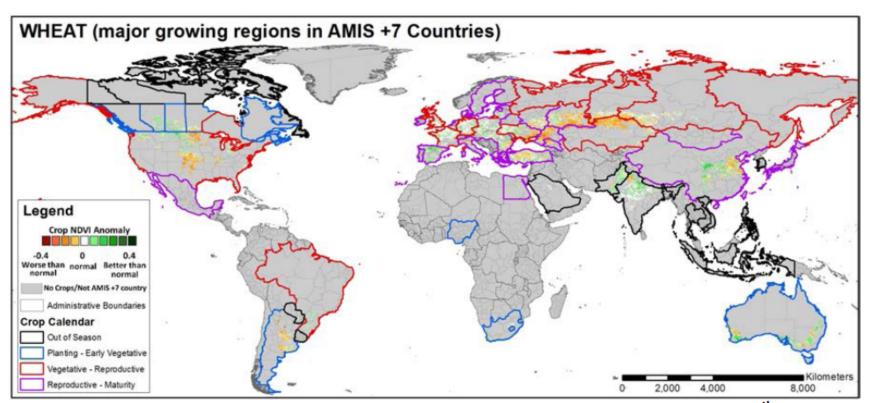






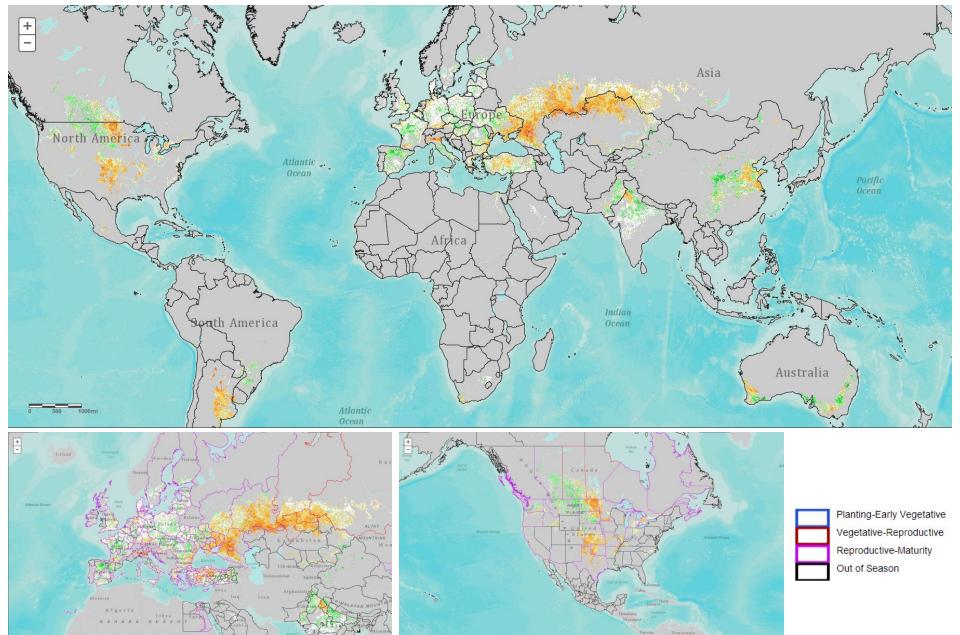
Global Crop Assessment : Phase 1 Global Component

Wheat

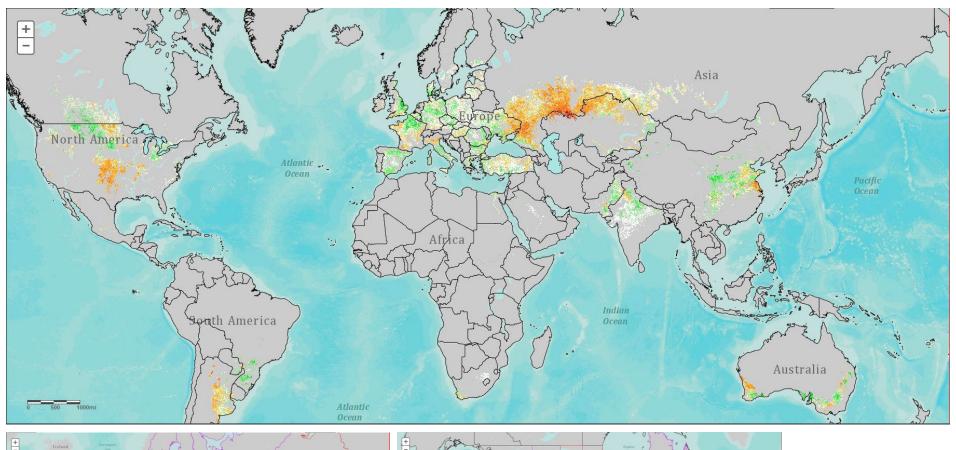


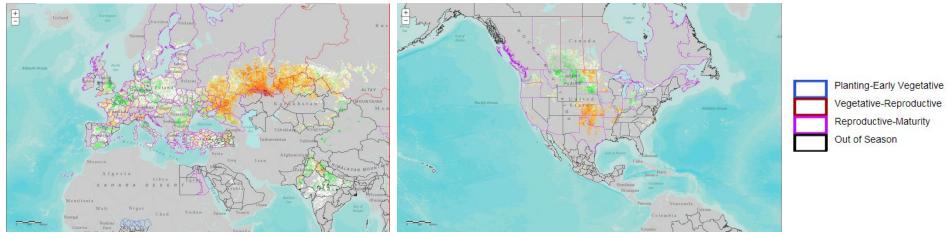
NDVI anomaly image (NASA MODIS) depicting vegetative growth anomalies on June 29th over the main wheat growing areas. (Orange to red indicates less green vegetation than average, green indicates higher than average vegetation). Colors of country outlines refer to growth stage: Blueplanting to early vegetative, Red- Vegetative to Reproductive, Purple- Reproductive to Maturity, Black-out of season. Note: only AMIS+7 countries are highlighted.

July 1st 2013 NDVI Anomaly

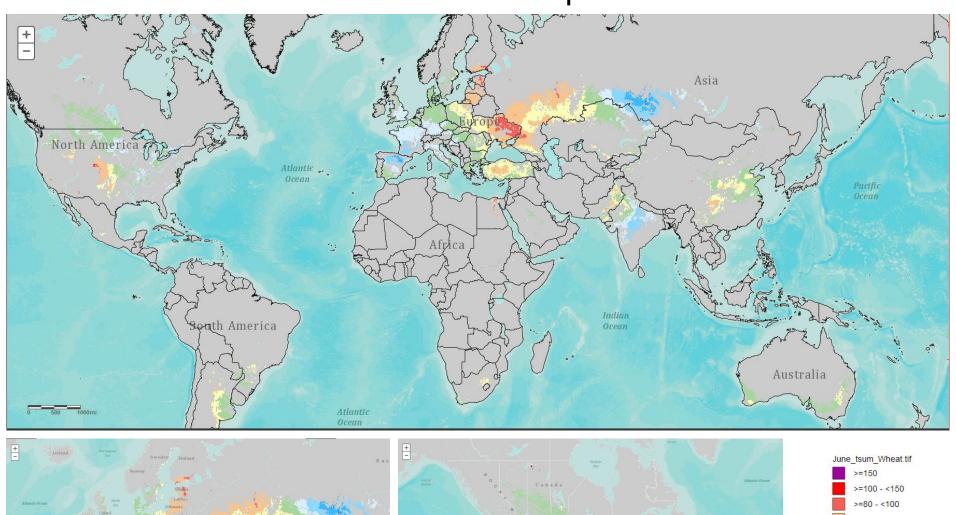


July 15st 2013 NDVI Anomaly



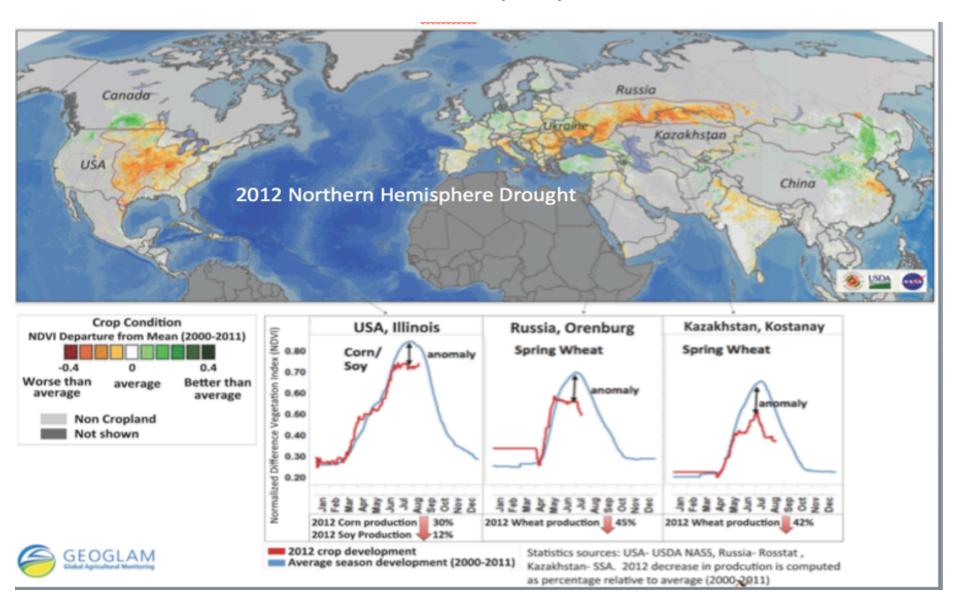


June 2013 Temperature Sum

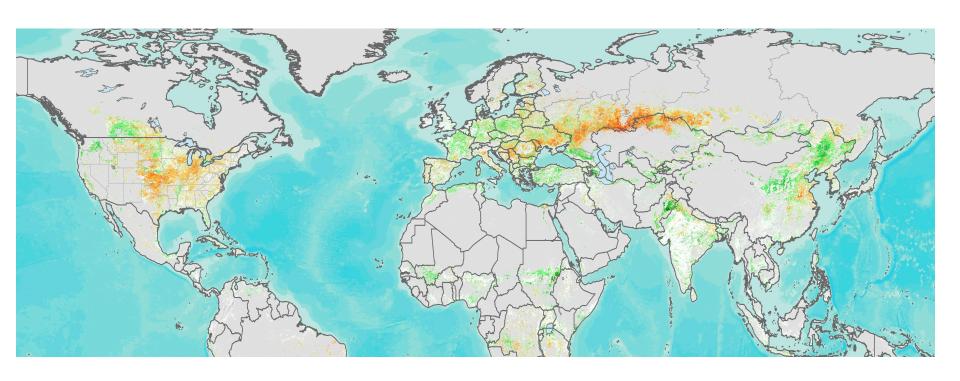




MODIS NDVI Anomaly July 30th 2012

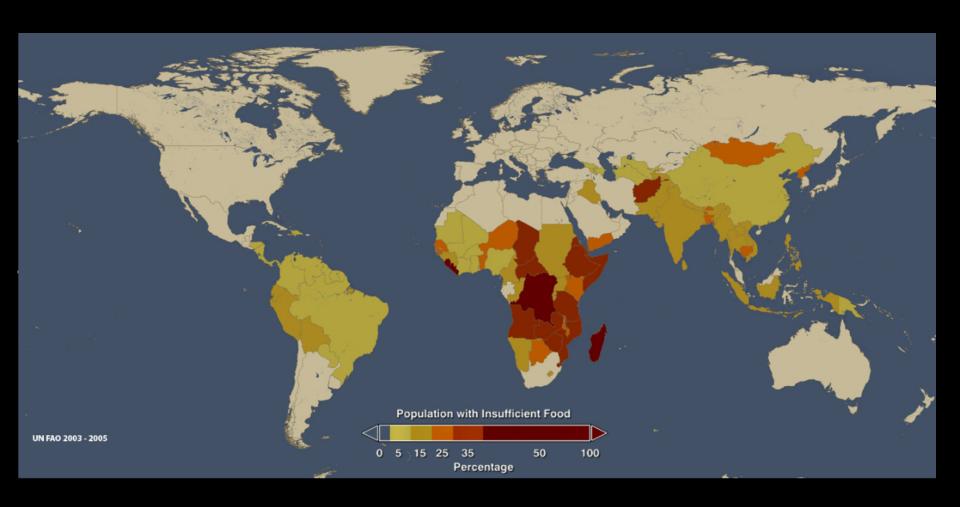


Prototype VIIRS NDVI Anomaly, July 30th 2012



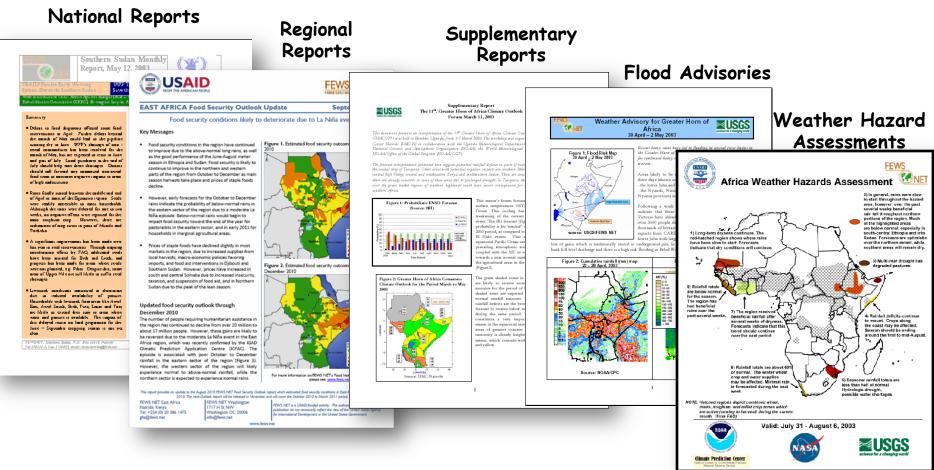
A VIIRS NDVI anomaly (prototype) image computed for the same date (July, 30th 2012) as the MODIS NDVI anomaly shown in the previous slide, generated from data produced at the GSFC Land PEATE.

Percent of Population by Country with Insufficient Food UN FAO 2003-2005



Primary countries at Risk

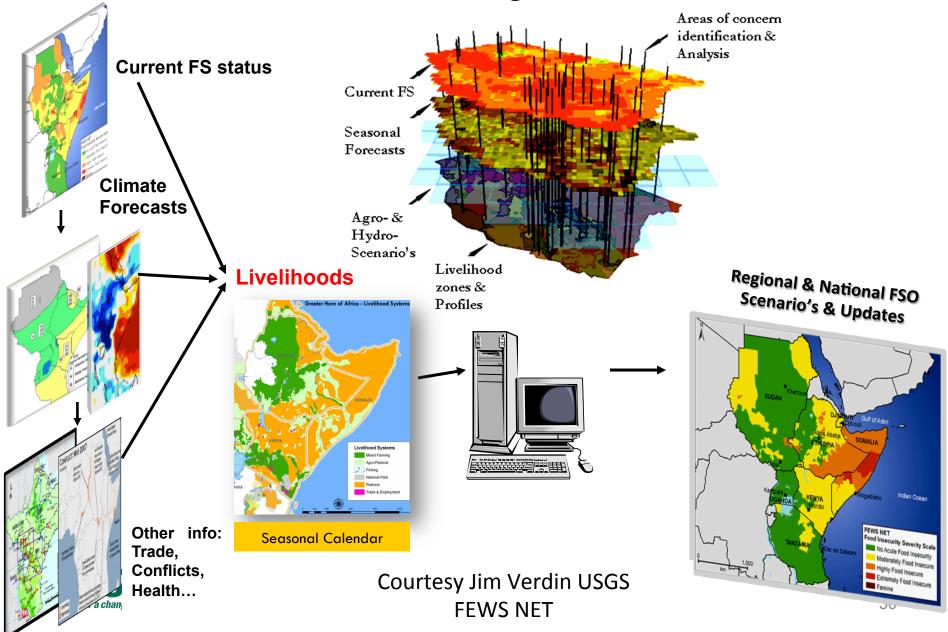
FEWS NET Reporting for Early Warning & Monitoring...



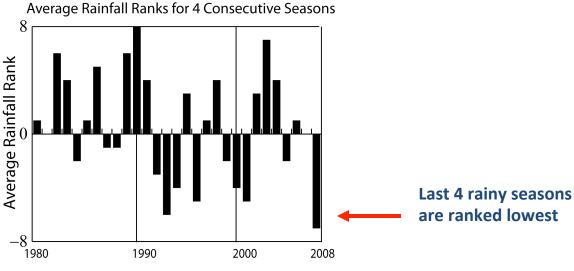




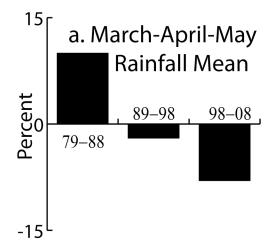
Food Security Outlooks

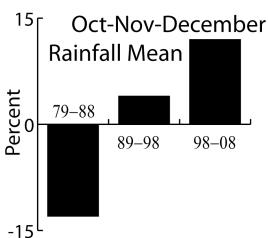


Trends: Precipitation changes in Kenya, 1980 – 2008



Almost 20% drop in main season rainfall since 1980

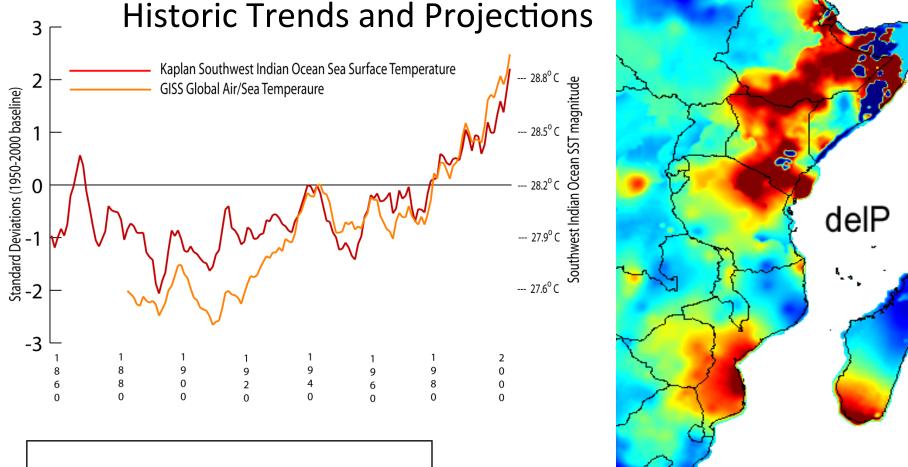




Main season rainfall decreasing, while second season is increasing







20th Century Global Surface Temperatures and Indian Ocean SSTs Rising in Tandem (Same "hockey-stick" rise since 1980)

Anticipated change in rainfall (as percent)
More agricultural drought lies ahead

-25





 $\overline{2}5$





Famine Early Warning Systems Network - Informing Climate Change Adaptation Series



A Climate Trend Analysis of Kenya—August 2010

Conclusions

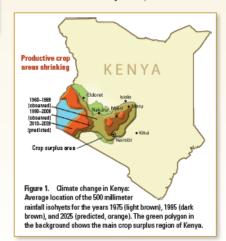
- · Long rains in central Kenya have declined more than 100 millimeters since the mid-1970s. This decline is probably linked to warming in the Indian Ocean, and seems likely to continue.
- · The observed drying tendency is the opposite predicted by the 4th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment.
- · A warming of more than 1° Celsius may exacerbate drying impacts, especially in lowland areas.
- The drying trends could particularly impact densely populated areas to the east, north, and north-west of Nairobi.
- · Critical surplus crop growing areas in Central Kenya are threatened, and the amount of prime arable land could diminish substantially.

Observed Drying Trends

This brief report draws from a multi-year effort by the United States Agency for International Development's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) to monitor and map rainfall and temperature trends over the last 50 years (1960-2009) in Kenya. Observations from seventy rainfall gauges and seventeen air temperature stations were analyzed for the long rains period, corresponding to March through June (MAMJ). The data were quality controlled, converted into 1960-2009 trend estimates, and interpolated using a rigorous geo-statistical technique (kriging). Kriging produces standard error estimates, and these can be used to assess the relative spatial accuracy of the identified trends. Dividing the trends by the associated errors allows us to identify the relative certainty of our estimates (Funk and others, 2005; Verdin and others, 2005; Brown and Funk, 2008; Funk and Verdin, 2009). Assuming that the same observed trends persist, regardless of whether or not these changes are

due to anthropogenic or natural cyclical causes, these results can be extended to 2025, providing critical, and heretofore missing information about the types and locations of adaptation efforts that may be required to improve food security.

The analyses clearly indicate cohesive patterns of observed climate change during the 1960-2009 era in rainfall (fig. 1) and temperature data (fig. 2). Extending the observed 1960-2009 changes out until 2025, we find that large parts of Kenya will have experienced more than a 100 millimeter (mm) decline in long-season rainfall by that date. Evaluations of independent rainfall data sets produce similar results (Williams and Funk, 2010). For Kenya, the relative magnitude of the identified long-season rainfall declines is generally more than three times the associated standard errors (table 1, supplemental map 1). These decreases in rainfall were accompanied by significant increases in average air temperatures, with the MAMJ temperature increases generally being more than twice the interpolation standard errors (table 1, supplemental map 2). This 1° Celsius warming value can be compared to the typical inter-annual standard deviation of MAMJ station temperatures, about 0.6° Celsius.



Port Shoot 2010, MR4





Famine Early Warning Systems Network—Informing Climate Change Adaptation Series

Using Observed Warming to Identify Hazards to Mozambique Maize Production

New Perspectives on Crop Yield Constraints because of Climate Change

Climate change impact assessments usually focus on changes to precipitation because most global food production is from rainfed cropping systems; however, other aspects of climate change may affect crop growth and potential yields.

A recent (2011) study by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Climate Hazards Group, determined that climate change may be affecting Mozambique's primary food crop in a usually overlooked, but potentially significant way (Harrison and others, 2011). The study focused on the direct relation between maize crop development and growing season temperature. It determined that warming during the past three decades in Mozambique may be causing more frequent crop stress and yield reductions in that country's maize crop, independent of any changes occurring in rainfall. This report summarizes the findings and conclusions of that study.

Development in Mozambique

The Harrison (2011) study analyzed historical

changes in air temperature in Mozambique between

1979 and 2008, and collected data that relate the dura-

tion of specific maize plant growth phases to differing

estimated using the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

(GeoWRSI.) The following changes in maize growth

· duration of the reproductive period (flowering to

· total growth duration (planting to maturity, days);

· 90th percentile maximum temperature during the

minimum, maximum, and average temperature during

each of these periods, in degrees Celsius (°C); and

Geospatial Water Requirement Satisfaction Index

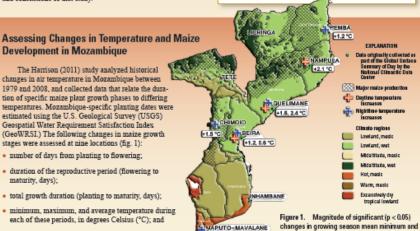
stages were assessed at nine locations (fig. 1):

· number of days from planting to flowering;

temperatures. Mozambique-specific planting dates were

Conclusions

- Recent (2011) analysis indicates that 30 years of substantial warming has increased temperatures during the primary growing season in central Mozambique by ~1.5 degrees Celsius.
- · The warming is affecting the maize crop's phenology by causing an onset of flowering 4 days earlier and a 5 to 7 percent decline in total time to plant maturation.
- Warmer temperatures earlier in the season threaten maize yields by exposing the plant at sensitive crop phases to increased heat and drought, and shortening the crop's growth cycle, thus reducing the size of the plant and the weight of its grains.
- Continued warming could increase the risk of these hazards and affect crop production, regardless of any changes in rainfall



U.S. Dosartmost of the Interior U.S. Goological Survey

(A) Frinted on recycled paper

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

reproductive period (°C).

maturity, days);

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Fact Shoot 2011-3110





maximum temperature (1979-80 to 2008-09).

(Harrison and others, 2011).

La Nina and Food Security in East Africa





EXECUTIVE BRIEF: La Niña and Food Security in East Africa

August 2010

Key messages

- A La Niña event has been declared based on the cooling of sea surface temperatures (SST) in the central Pacific Ocean. La Niña events are associated with drier-than-normal conditions during the October-December rainy season in the eastern sector of East Africa, and with wetter-than-normal conditions in the western and northern sector (Sudan, western Ethiopia, and western parts of Kenya). La Niña events can also result in poor March-May rains in the eastern sector of the region.
- The main areas of concern are those that depend on the short rains for crop and pasture production, including Somalia. the northeast pastoral and southeastern marginal agricultural areas of Kenya, the Somali region of Ethiopia, and northeastern Tanzania. In pastoral areas, below-average rains could lead to rapid depletion of resources, livestock clustering in permanent water points and limited dry-season grazing areas, and reduced livestock productivity and value, thereby gradually reversing substantial recent food security gains. In cropping areas, poor October to December rains would negatively affect agricultural labor opportunities, food availability, prices, and income beginning in February 2010 with the short rains harvest.
- . The impacts of a La Niña event in the northern and western sector of the region are likely to be less severe. Aboveaverage rains could improve crop and livestock conditions, though they could also increase the risks of flooding, soil erosion, and seasonal disease prevalence.
- Although the La Niña event is considered to be moderate at this time, the severity of the event will depend on the response of sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean. If the warming trend in Indian Ocean SSTs continues, it will moderate the precipitation impacts of the La Niña in East Africa, whereas cooling temperatures could exacerbate the trends described above. FEWS NET will issue a follow-up brief pending the outcome of the regional Climate Outlook Forum

Understanding La Niña

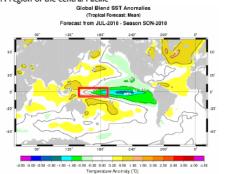
A La Niña event has been officially declared by both the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center (NOAA/CPC). La Niña events are operationally defined using the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI). the three-month running mean values of sea surface temperature (SST) departures from average in the Niño 3.4 region of the central Pacific (Figure 1). NOAA defines La Niña as the condition whereby the ONI is less than or equal to -0.5 degrees Celsius in the Niño 3.4 region.

Current conditions in the Niño 3.4 region indicate rapid cooling of SSTs. Various SST model forecasts indicate that. based on expected SSTs of -1 to -1.5 degrees, a moderate La Niña event is likely to begin in August 2010 and last for 9 to 12 months.

La Niña events are generally associated with drier-than-FEVVS NET Washington

1717 H St NW Washington DC 20006 info@fews.net

Figure 1. Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region of the central Pacific



FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Source: NOAA





La Nina and Food Security in East Africa

- September 2010 GHACOF confirmed La Nina outlook
- November 2, 2010 EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert
 "...a worse than usual JFM lean season..."
- February 23, 2011 EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert "Large-scale emergency assistance to address current food insecurity is needed.."
- March 15, 2011 EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert "Below-average March to May rains forecast in the Eastern Horn – current crisis likely to worsen"
- May 6, 2011 EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert "conditions in the pastoral areas in particular are moving toward the 'worst case scenario' identified by FEWS NET in the March 15 East Africa Food Security Alert"





La Nina and Food Security in East Africa













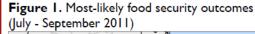
EAST AFRICA Food Security Alert

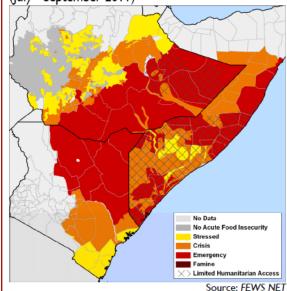
<u>June</u> 7, 201

Food security emergency continues in the eastern Horn; humanitarian response inadequate

The eastern Horn of Africa has experienced two consecutive seasons of significantly below-average rainfall, resulting in one of the driest years since 1995. Crops have failed, substantial livestock mortality has occurred, and local cereal prices are very high. More than seven million people in the sub-region need humanitarian assistance, and emergency levels of acute malnutrition are widespread. This is the most severe food security emergency in the world today, and the current humanitarian response is inadequate to prevent further deterioration.

Following a complete failure of the 2010 October-December rains and related harvests, the 2011 March-May rains began late and performed erratically. In some areas of northern Kenya and southern Somalia, rainfall was less than 30 percent of the 1995-2010 average. Excess livestock mortality of 15-30 percent has been reported across the region, with mortality levels as high as 40-60 percent in localized areas, especially for cattle and sheep. Staple cereal prices remain much higher than last year and are approaching or have exceeded record levels. In southern Somalia, red sorghum prices have risen up to 240 percent over the last year. The combination of extremely high food prices and average to below-average livestock prices and wages has substantially eroded purchasing power in pastoral, cropping, and urban areas. In Juba region





of Somalia, for example, the value of one cow plummeted from 430 kg to 161 kg of maize between May 2010 and May 2011.



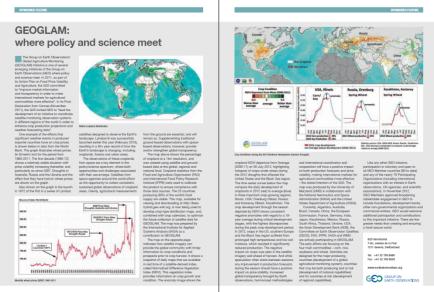
AMS Annual Meeting January 23, 2012 – New Orleans, Louisiana







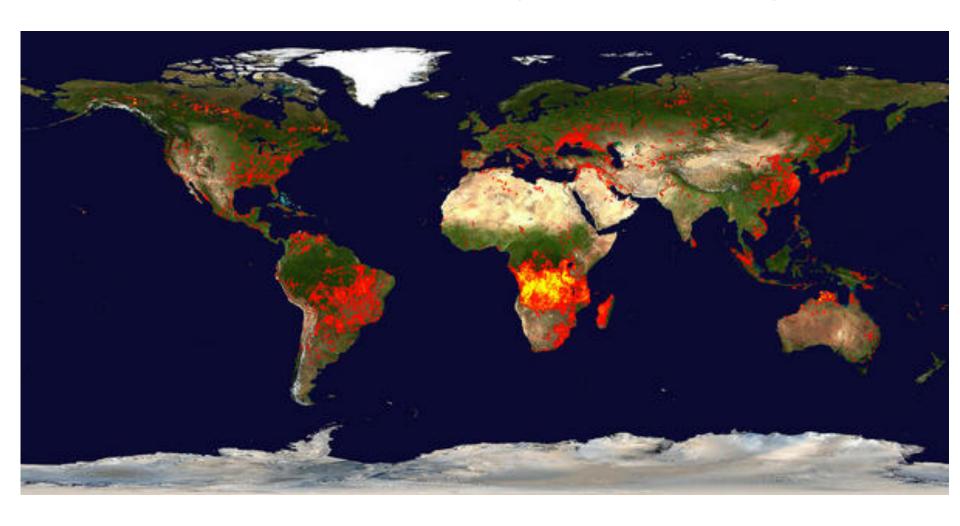


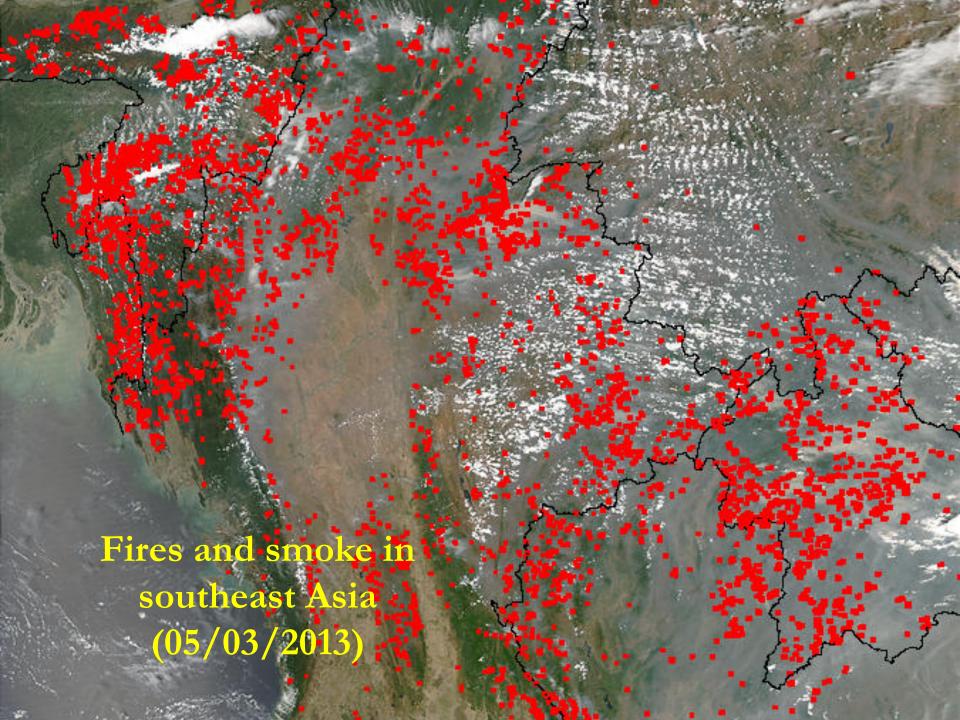


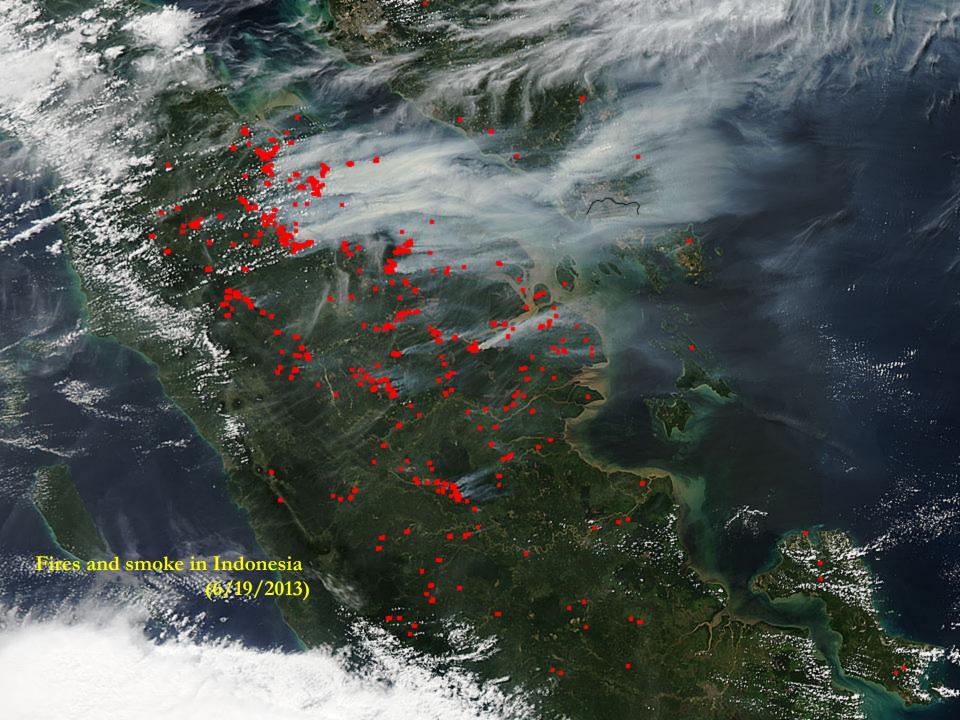
For GEOGLAM the international community of practice is ready – the work plan is well developed - the programs are getting the right level of policy mandate – now how does this translate into government agency commitments for improving operational systems, overcoming institutional barriers and implementing true international cooperation?

Satellite Detection of Fires Burning Last 10 days

MODIS Active Fire Detections (07/10/2013 - 07/19/2013)



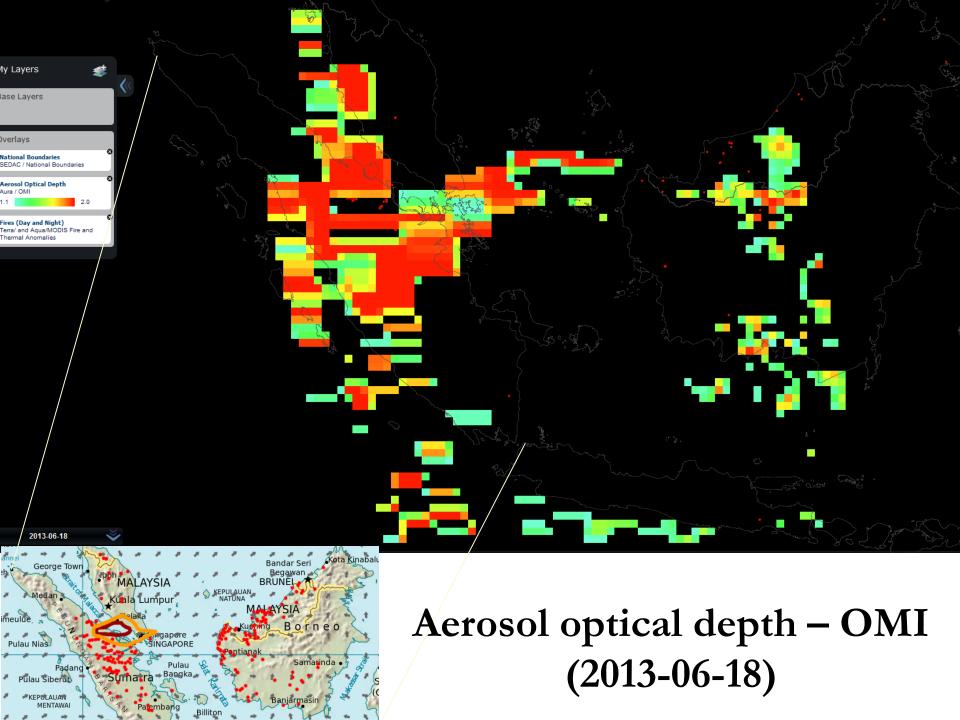


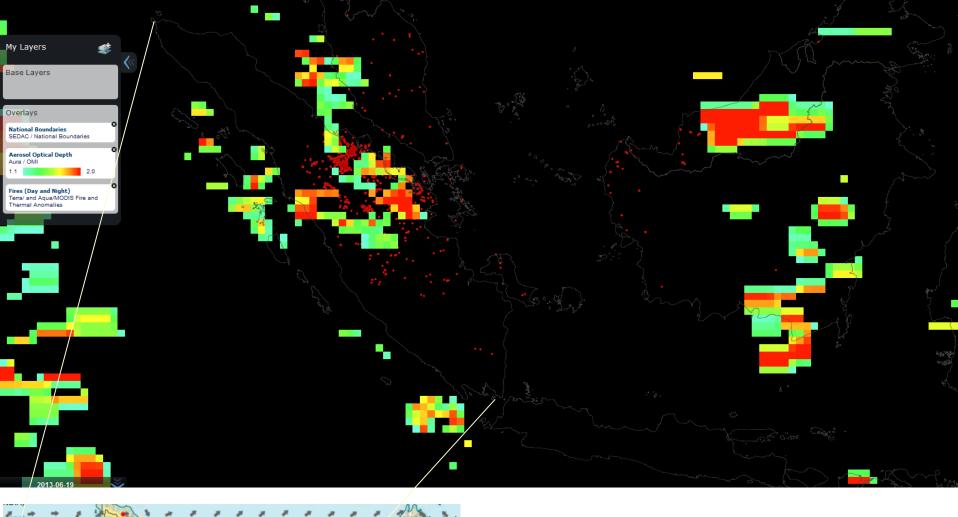






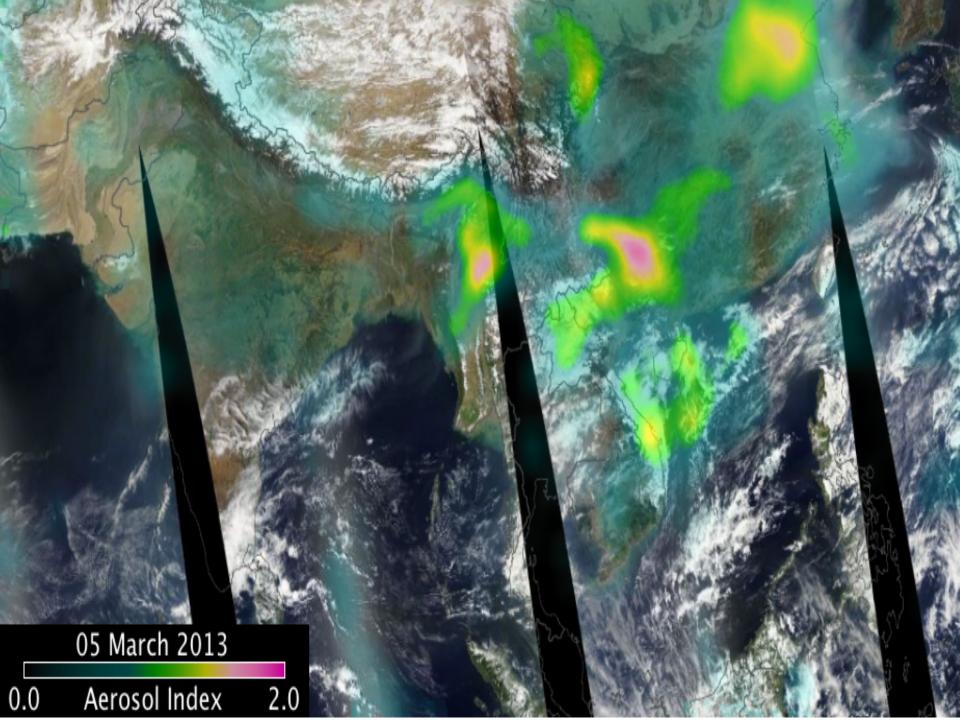








Aerosol optical depth-OMI (2013-06-19)



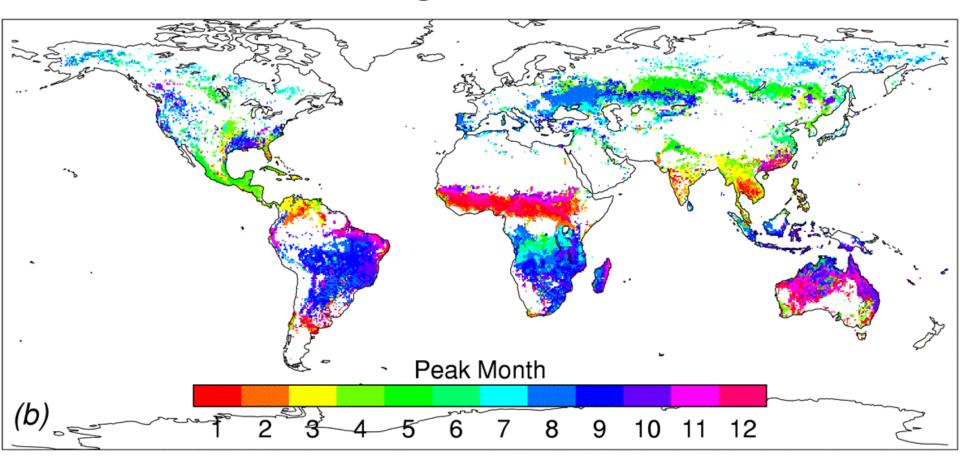


ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary

Haze Pollution

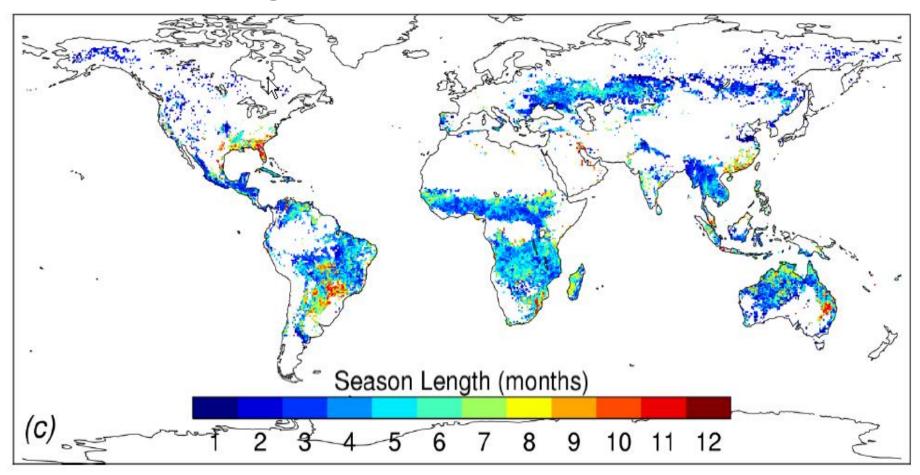
- The Agreement requires the Parties to the Agreement to:
- (i) cooperate in developing and implementing measures to prevent, monitor, and mitigate transboundary haze pollution by controlling sources of land and/or forest fires, development of monitoring, assessment and early warning systems, exchange of information and technology, and the provision of mutual assistance;
- (ii) respond promptly to a request for relevant information sought by a State or States that are or may be affected by such transboundary haze pollution, with a view to minimising the consequence of the transboundary haze pollution; and
- (iii) take legal, administrative and/ or other measures to implement their obligations under the Agreement.
- 9 SEA Countries, COP 6 Brunei 2010

Time-series needed to develop a satellite-based Global Fire Regime Characterization



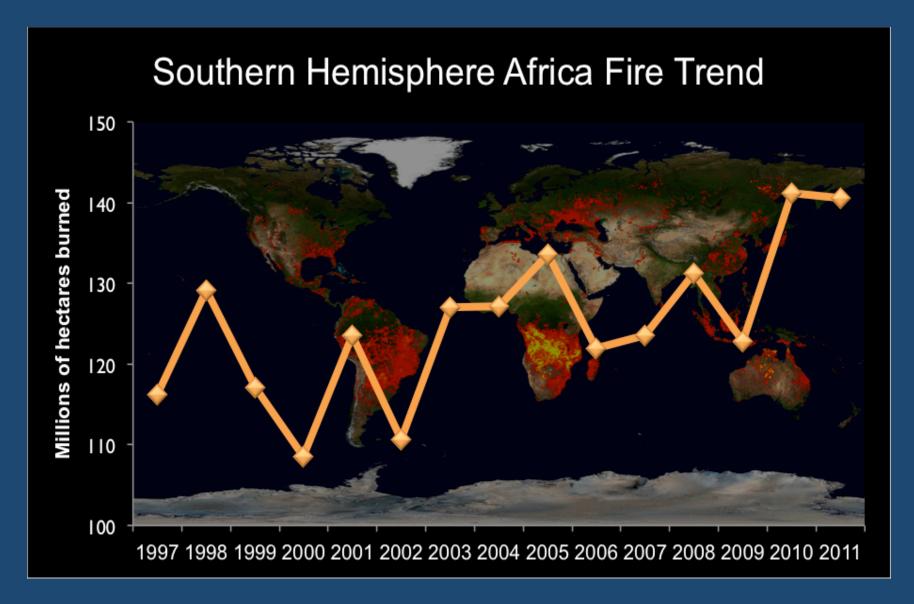
Mean Peak Fire Month (2000-2005)

Starting to Characterize Global Fire

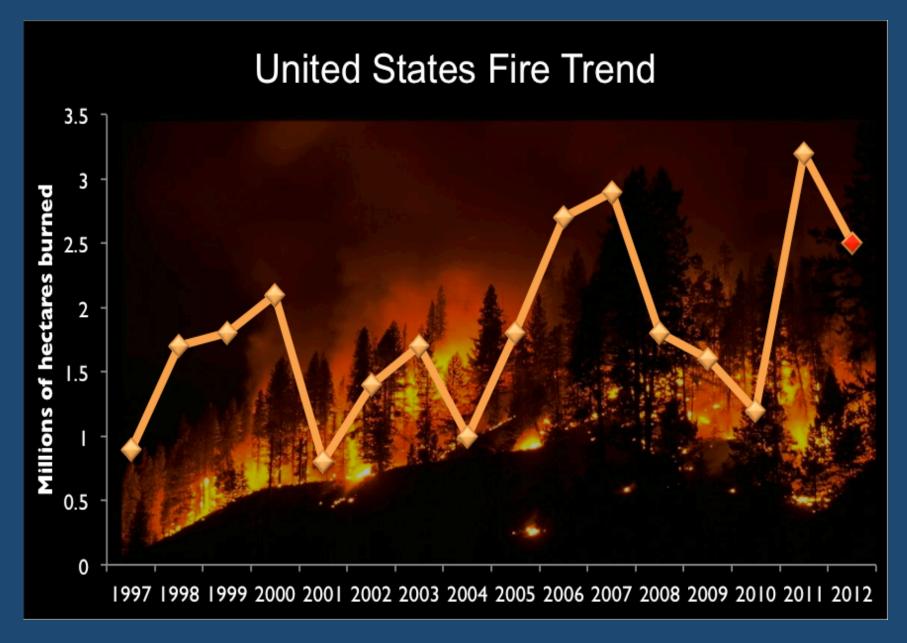


Season length from MODIS active fires (2000-2005)

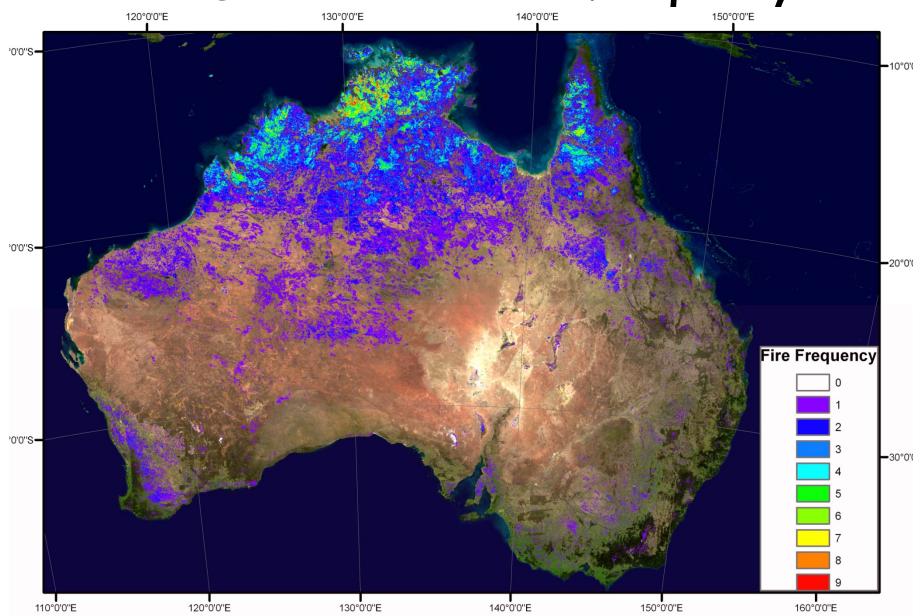
Giglio et al., 2006, JGR



Burned area data from satellite-based Global Fire Emissions Database (GFED)

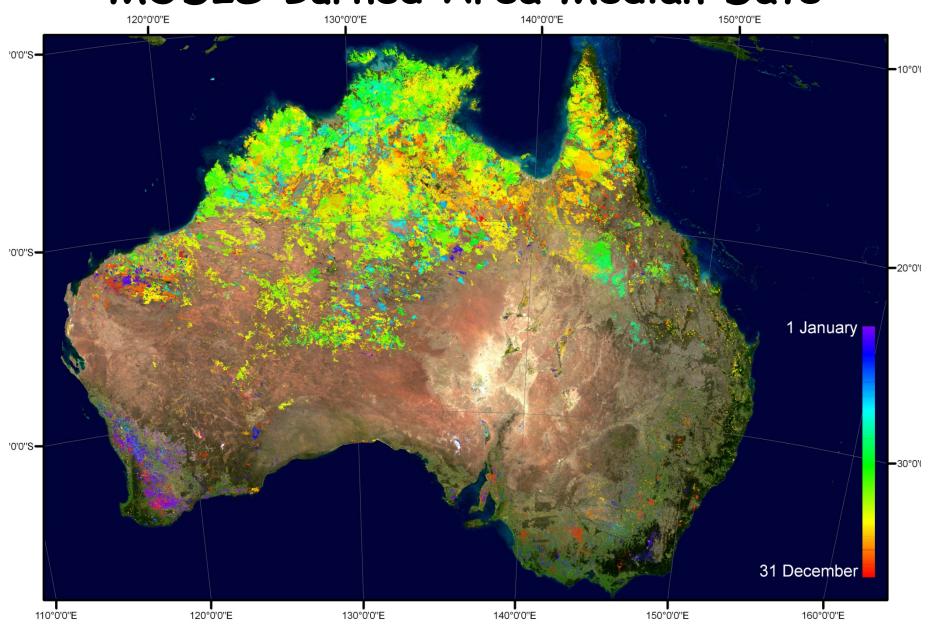


MODIS Burned Area Frequency



Boschetti, Roy and Justice

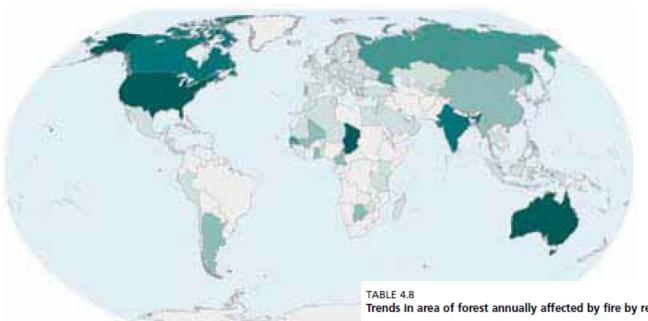
MODIS Burned Area Median Date



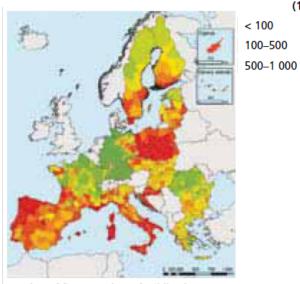
2000 - 2008

Boschetti, Roy and Justice

FIGURE 4.3 Average area of forest annually affected by fire by country, 2005



UN Forest Resource **Assessment** 2010



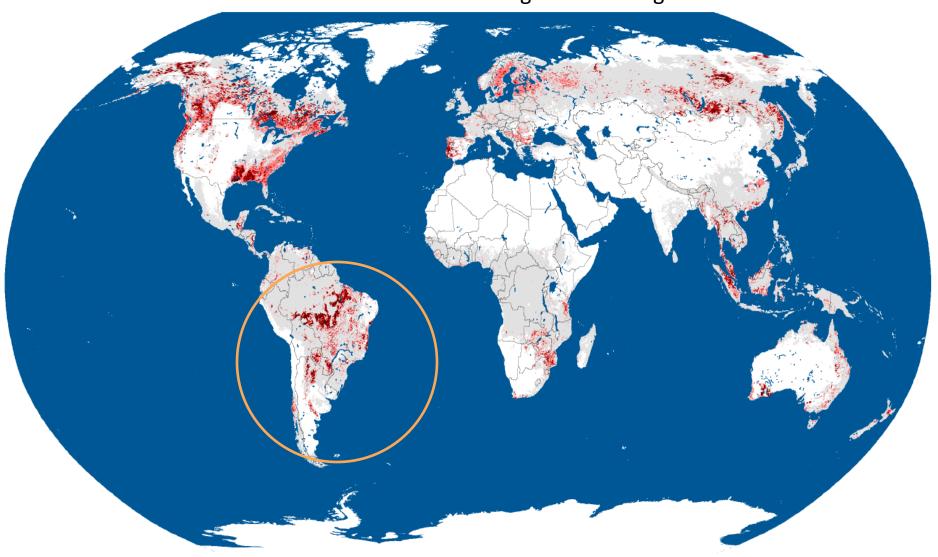
ımher	of	fires/	/r/10	km²	of	wildland	4
ullibe	ΟI	nires/)	/1/ IU	KIII	OI.	willulatio	J.

	frends in area of forest ann	ius in area of forest annually affected by fire by region and subregion, 1990–2005					
	Region/subregion	Information	availability	Area of for	est affected by fi	ire (1 000 ha)	
(1 000 ha)		Number of	% of total	1990	2000	2005	

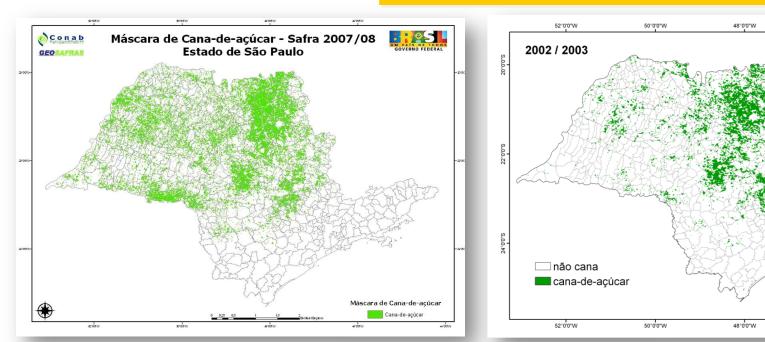
Region/Sublegion	IIIIOIIIIauoi	i avaliability	Area or forest affected by file (1 000 fla)			
	Number of countries	% of total forest area	1990	2000	2005	
Eastern and Southern Africa	6	25.0	88	50	53	
Northern Africa	4	9.6	14	21	16	
Western and Central Africa	4	9.2	12 141	8 462	7 157	
Total Africa	14	15.6	12 243	8 533	7 226	
East Asia	5	100.0	318	417	549	
South and Southeast Asia	7	82.2	3 090	2 149	1 852	
Western and Central Asia	13	48.7	19	79	47	
Total Asia	25	87.1	3 427	2 644	2 448	
Europe excl. Russian Federation	36	80.2	273	225	261	
Total Europe	37	96.2	896	1 387	1 252	
Caribbean	6	73.8	11	18	15	
Central America	0	-	-	-	-	
North America	4	100.0	2 781	3 112	3 437	
Total North and Central America	10	96.8	2 793	3 130	3 452	
Total Oceania	5	4.2	0	0	0	
Total South America	5	14.0	490	708	333	
World	96	59.0	19 849	16 402	14 710	

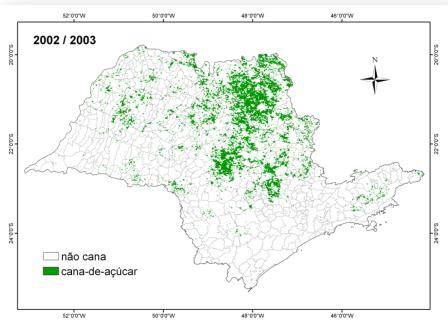
Percent forest cover loss, 2000 to 2005

Time Series for Monitoring Forest Change



Sugarcane Expansion (Ethanol), Brazil



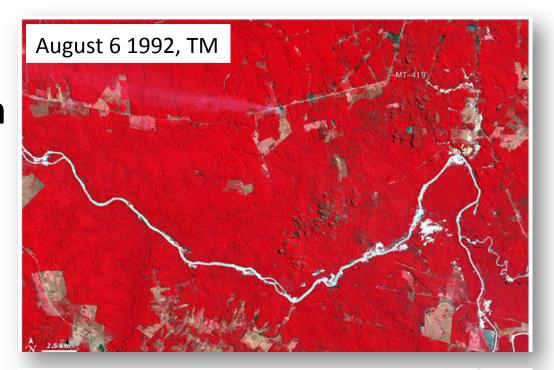


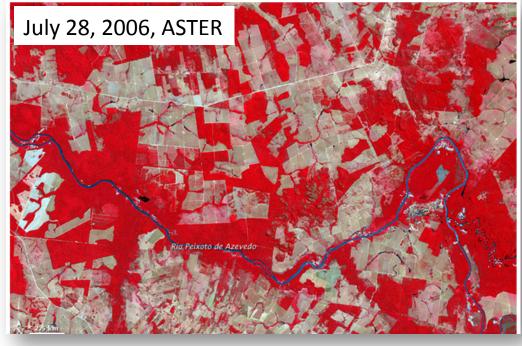


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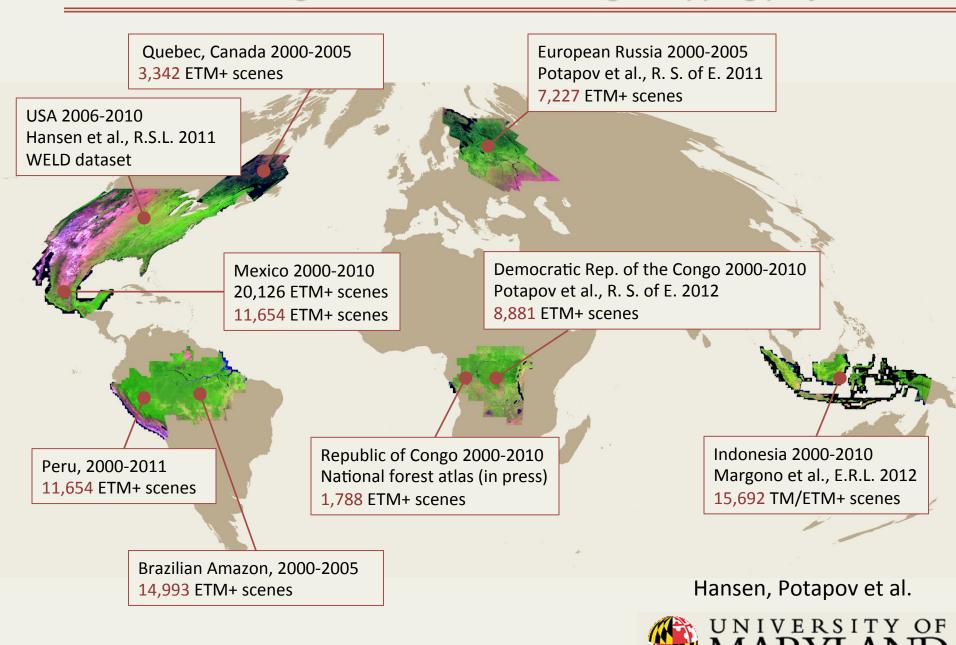
Soybean Expansion in Mato Grosso, Brazil



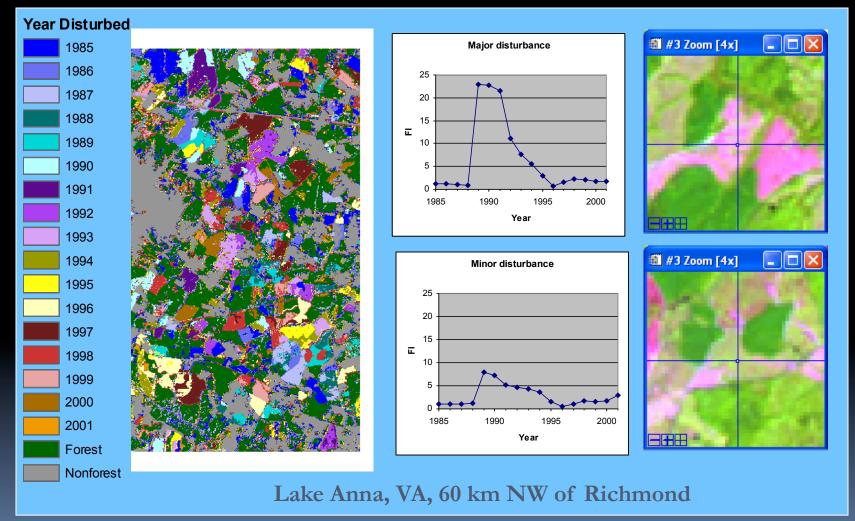




National and regional forest cover change mapping projects



North American Forest Dynamics Vegetation Change Tracker



UN REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

UN-REDD Programme Partner Countries Click any of the red or blue countries below for progress updates on the UN-REDD Programme's 47 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. SOURCEBOOK Countries receiving support to National Programm Other partner countries A sourcebook of methods and procedures for monitoring and reporting anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals caused by deforestation, gains and losses of carbon stocks in

UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in **Developing Countries** (UN-REDD)

> FAO. UNDP. UNEP Framework Document 20 June 2008







forests remaining forests, and forestation



Expanded Take Home Message

- Satellite-based monitoring can provide policy relevant information for societal benefit
- Consistent long-term data records (CDR's) are as important for several applications of societal benefit as they are for global change research
- Because its 'operational' doesn't mean we can tolerate poorer quality data (Data Quality Matters)
- Science stewardship of the data is required for both science and applications - involving calibration, quality assessment and use
- Frequent reprocessing of the data records is implicit in the development of consistent long-term data records (as the data are better understood)
- Should the NOAA CDR Program include land applications of 'societal benefit'? – If so - what changes to the program would be needed?